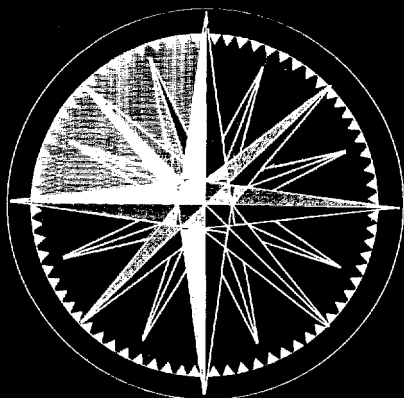


SECRET



Release 2006/03/06 : CIA-RDP79-00927A005300090002-5

1 July 1966

OCI No. 0296/66A

Copy No. 39

# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SPECIAL REPORT

INDIA'S REBELLIOUS EASTERN TRIBES

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

Approved For Release 2006/03/06 : CIA-RDP79-00927A005300090002-5 Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and declassification

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/03/06 : CIA-RDP79-00927A005300090002-5

Approved For Release 2006/03/06 : CIA-RDP79-00927A005300090002-5

**SECRET**

## INDIA'S REBELLIOUS EASTERN TRIBES

Militant leaders of two rebellious tribal groups in India's rugged eastern border regions have declared their peoples' independence. The 600,000 Nagas and 270,000 Mizos, like other Tibeto-Burman tribes which comprise the bulk of the border population, have a history of resisting any outside rule. New Delhi has indicated a willingness to grant them substantial autonomy, but refuses to consider complete tribal independence.

During the past decade, guerrilla bands have tied down large numbers of Indian troops--as many as 40,000 at various times. Each new indication of tribal intractability stirs up increased parliamentary pressure on Prime Minister Gandhi for a full-scale campaign to stamp out the rebellion. Pakistan's active past assistance to the rebels further complicates the issue.

Any punitive operation would be protracted and costly. The tribes inhabit almost inaccessible jungle-covered mountainous terrain where effective patrolling is impossible. The north-south ridges which limit the region's vulnerability to foreign invasion equally inhibit effective governmental control, facilitate the Naga and Mizo guerrilla operations, and aid infiltration to and from Pakistan.

### The Naga Problem

The older and more serious of the two tribal revolts is the ten-year-old struggle in Nagaland. Most of the Nagas live in extreme isolation along the mountain ridges of Nagaland State and in adjacent regions of Assam and the Union Territory of Manipur. Like other hill peoples in the region, the Nagas are hunter-warriors, and strong antagonisms have developed between them and the more docile agriculturalists of the plains. Their

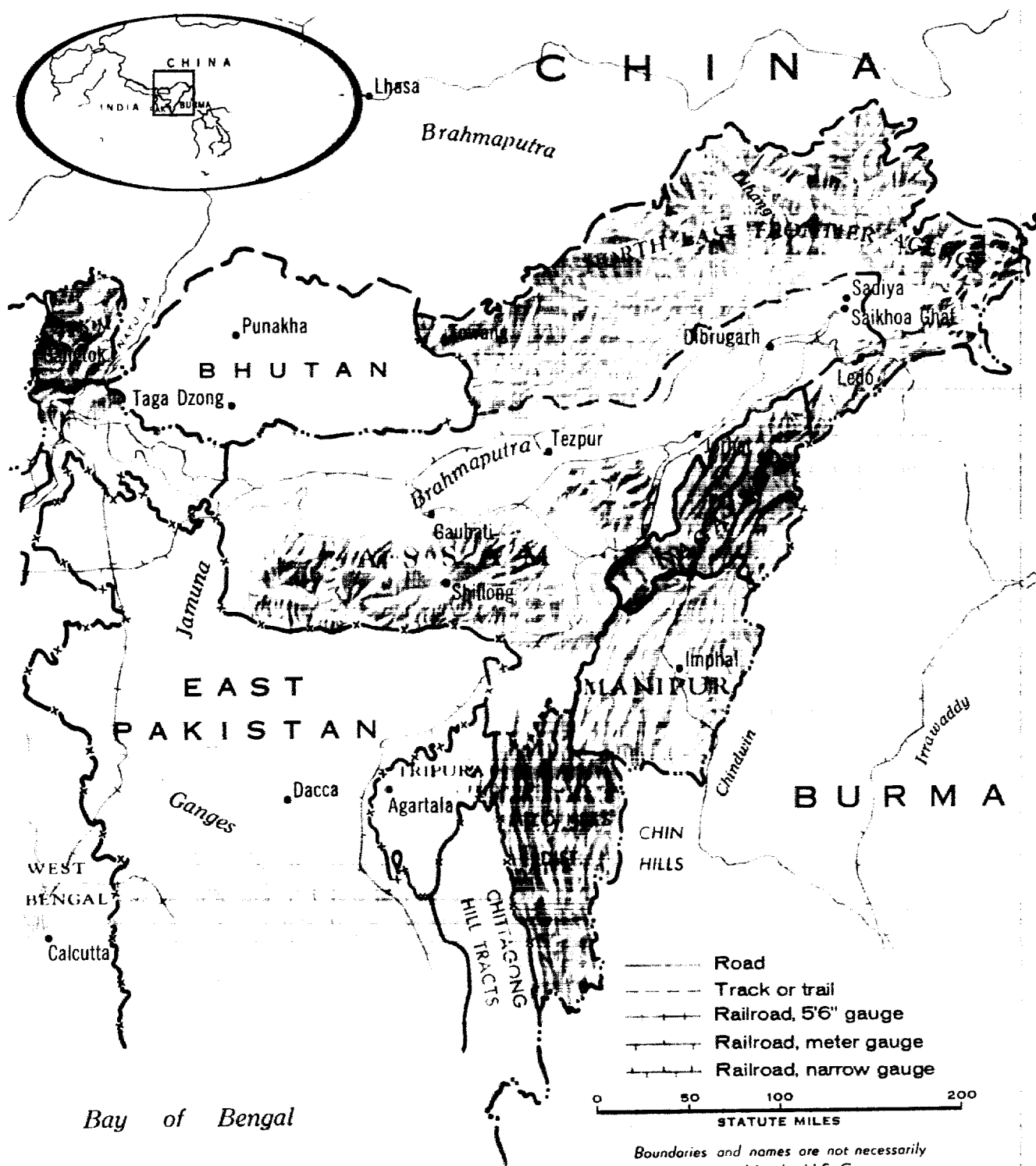
thatched hilltop villages, often fortified against the marauding of neighboring tribes, are interconnected by rudimentary trails. Only 500-600 miles of roadway are negotiable by vehicles heavier than a jeep.

The Nagas are not entirely homogenous. There are more than a dozen major tribes, and a scattering of lesser tribes and subtribes. About half are Christians; the remainder are animists. Significant linguistic and cultural differences separate the

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

# EASTERN INDIA



62771

**SECRET**